



Worship Times

10:15 am

FaithWorks

9 am



Invite a
friend
to
church!



St. Paul's LUTHERAN CHURCH of Sassamansville

December 2019 / January 2020

Volume 61 Issue 9

The Epistle



Hanging of the Greens December 21 @ 10:00AM

Join us to help decorate our church for the coming of Birth of Jesus. We will also be separating the Christmas cards for disbursement to the members of the congregation.

Lunch will be provided. Please sign up if you will be joining us so we have a head count for lunch.



Please make sure that any monetary gifts to the church are received in the church office by December 31 to be included on your 2019 statement of giving.

This includes any In-Kind donations and Shares of Faith also. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 1
Advent begins

Saturday, December 14
Cub Scout Breakfast

Saturday, December 21
10 am Hanging of the Greens
(lunch provided)

Tuesday, December 24---Christmas Eve Services
4 pm Family Candlelight with Holy Communion
7 pm Candlelight with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 29
10:15 am Holy Communion

Merry Christmas



Note from Pastor Matt

The “holiday season” is now upon us. It is no surprise that the season of Advent gets overlooked in the excitement of Christmastime. Advent is about watching and waiting. Waiting is not the focus of the “holiday season”. In the secular season Christmas is over on the morning of December 26th; turn off the Christmas carols, take down the decorations, put the tree out by the road. Once we are past Thanksgiving (and increasingly before Thanksgiving) it is time to celebrate Christmas in the wider culture.



That celebration is marked by feeling “merry and bright” through the days of December. There are parties and gatherings, gifts and feasts throughout this time. As wonderful as it is to celebrate the true joy of Christmas, Christ’s coming into our world, the celebrations of the “season” can feel overwhelming. In fact these celebrations can obscure the truth at the heart of Christmas.

It is also the case that not everyone feels “merry and bright” through this season. Often we can feel the opposite. This year in cooperation with New Hanover Lutheran and St. Luke’s, Gilbertsville we are offering a new opportunity to mark the hope that Christ’s birth brings into our world. Similar services have been done in other congregations and these services go by various names. Regardless of the name, these services are designed to offer a time of quiet and reflection in the midst of what can

be a busy and overwhelming time. **It is also designed for those who are feeling a particular sense of loss or pain during this time of year. The following is from a description of the service from another congregation:**

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult.

The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation - all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone.

Our spirits sink, as the days grow shorter. We feel the darkness growing deeper around us. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

Come out, and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God’s presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle - and that God’s Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome.

This service will be held at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Gilbertsville on Thursday December 19th at 7PM. Please take this opportunity to gather with other members of our community to remember the true hope, joy, and peace that Christ’s birth brings into our world and our lives.

Remember in your prayers:

Our Church members, family and friends.....

Linda Miller	Arlene Hess	Esther Renninger	Cleora Shellaway
Marie Stauffer	Mary Ann Levan	Gloria Stricker	John and Miki Mroz
Lillian Sweinhart	Jana LePage	Kathy Hoffman	Marion Eshbach
Fay Trayler	Dennis Stricker	Chuck Yerger	Arthur Yerger
Walter Dittman	Shirley Heydt	Gerald Higham	Chad Hunsberger
Ruthy Heydt	Scott Levengood	Linda Soles	Edie Christensen
			Marlene Duchak

The young men and women serving in our armed forces....

Noah Ziegler, Peter Duchak, Matthew McHugh, Eric Littlefield

For the families and friends who mourn the loss of their loved ones.....

Arthur Smith Jr., Frank Fulmer, Dale Schrupp, Emma Heydt, Karen Moser, Charlotte Bletz, Dennis Cleaver, Mark Mutter, Joy Strunk, Pamela Snyder and her children Preston and Evelyn, Debbie Gaugler Spencer, Richard McKinney, Mary Moyer, Helen Johnson

Keep this paper with your devotional items to reference daily.



Date	Flowers	Bulletins
Monies MUST be attached to form to have that date sponsored or paid online through tithe.ly Forms on bulletin board in narthex.	\$25 for one vase \$50 for two vases \$7 delivery charge	\$12 per week
December	ALL OPEN	ALL OPEN (except Christmas Eve)
January	ALL OPEN	ALL OPEN
February	ALL OPEN	ALL OPEN

Birthdays in December

1-Ruth Miller
2-Kenneth Mathias
3-Esther Renninger
6-Ross Boerner, James Hoffman, Sr.
8-David Moore
9-John Patten
10-Elmer Wentzel
14-Cindy Moyer, Jennifer Crouch
15-Thomas Sminkey
20-Alita Adams
24-Lillian Sweinhart
25-Peter Duchak, II
28-Bruce Hoffman, Jason Moyer
30-Charles Kulp
31-Kenneth Renninger, Jr.

Birthdays in January

3-Kevin Gery
6-Gina Ruttman
7-Cory Hoffman, Stacey Meitzler
12-Robert Renninger, Sr.
13-Doris Moyer
15-Alyssa Wolford
16-Jennifer Levengood
18-Jean Wentzel, Julia Munch
19-Barbara Littlefield, Kellen Mathias
21-Sтивен Meitzler, Melody Mathias
22-Ashley Dittman
23-Alice Lucarelli, Andrew Mathias
24-Wilda Mathias, Randy Mathias

Happy Anniversary to Terry and Mae O'Connor on January 28

Ministry Volunteers

	December 1 10:15 am	December 8 10:15 am	December 15 10:15 am	December 22 10:15 am
Acolyte	Geoff Littlefield	Ruthy Heydt	Doris Moyer	Donna Long
Reader	Jodie Moyer	Carol Adams	Doris Moyer	Jodie Moyer
Ushers	Marlene Duchak Gene Yerger	Barbara Littlefield Geoff Littlefield	Carol Adams Madison, Brooke and Leah Eisenhard	Doris Moyer
Counters	Willard Koch Gerald Koch	Doris Moyer Wilda Mathias	Dawn Hydock	Allen and Ruthy Heydt
Altar Guild	Doris Moyer Sue Prutzman	Doris Moyer Sue Prutzman	Doris Moyer Sue Prutzman	Doris Moyer Sue Prutzman
Council	Joan Davis Barbara Marlow	Joan Davis Barbara Marlow	Joan Davis Barbara Marlow	Joan Davis Barbara Marlow
	December 24 4 pm	December 24 7 pm	December 29 10:15 am	
Acolyte	Doris Moyer	Geoff Littlefield	Sue Prutzman	
Reader			Geoff Littlefield	
Ushers	TBD	TBD	Roxanne Dittman Ashley Dittman	
Counters	TBD	TBD	Donna Long Sue Prutzman	
Altar Guild	Doris Moyer Sue Prutzman	Doris Moyer Sue Prutzman	Doris Moyer Sue Prutzman	
Council	Joan Davis Barbara Marlow	Joan Davis Barbara Marlow	Joan Davis Barbara Marlow	



	January 5 10:15 am	January 12 10:15 am	January 19 10:15 am	January 26 10:15 am
Acolyte	Ruthy Heydt	Doris Moyer	Sue Prutzman	Donna Long
Reader	Marlene Duchak	Donna Long	Merilyn McLaughlin	Ruthy Heydt
Ushers	Donna Long Joan Davis	Barb Marlow Jodie Moyer	Kristi Heydt Kimberly Heydt	Diane McGlinchey Dawn Hydock
Counters	Barbara Littlefield Geoff Littlefield	Willard Koch Gerald Koch	Doris Moyer Wilda Mathias	Dawn Hydock
Altar Guild				
Council	Kim Ibach Donna Long	Kim Ibach Donna Long	Kim Ibach Donna Long	Kim Ibach Donna Long



Bring in your loose change!

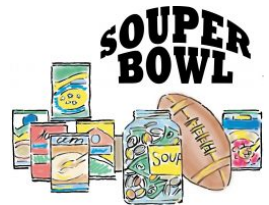
FaithWorks Classes will be collecting baggies of loose change for the "Cross of Change" **on Sunday, February, 2.**

They will be laying the change on a cross in the Fellowship Hall and all the monies will be given to the Boyertown Multi-Service.

So start collecting your change! It will make a difference in someone's life!

We will be collecting in pots that day for Souper Bowl Sunday also!

Wonder who will be the two teams??????



The staff of St. Paul's wants to thank all of you for your support to each one of us, all the time and effort you have given in various ways for events, office help, and just weekly tasks that need to be done.

We pray that the birth of Christ gives you hope and peace during this Christmas season. It has been a very hard year for many of our church family and we want you to know that you are loved and we, as a church family, pray for comfort in the time ahead.

*Merry Christmas.....
Pastor Matt, Lili, Andrea and Becky*



DATES FOR 2020---MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Email to Andrea at office@stpaulssassamansville.com

FEBRUARY ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, JANUARY 21
MARCH ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
APRIL ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, MARCH 17
MAY ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, APRIL 21
JUNE/JULY/AUGUST ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, MAY 19
SEPTEMBER ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, AUGUST 18
OCTOBER ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
NOVEMBER ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20
DECEMBER / JANUARY ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17



REMINDER for Committees and Council

All written annual reports from committees or others that are to be included in the issue are **due by December 31**. The financials will be later. Please email to Andrea at office@stpaulssassamansville.com. Thank you for your help!

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WEBSITE: stpaulssassamansville.com

STAFF
Pastor Matthew Finney
Lili Sanderlin, Music Director
Andrea Kershaw, Secretary
Becky Higham, Sexton

"To know Christ and make Christ known
Spread the Gospel by word and action."





POINSETTIA PLANTS

Deadline is Sunday, December 8, 2019

Cost is **\$7.00 per plant** (6 inch pots with 4 -5 blooms)

Please mark how many of each plant you would like to help decorate the Chancel
for Christmas!

_____ White Plant

Total plants _____

Wording _____

_____ Red Plant

Total plants _____

Wording _____

_____ Pink Plant

Total plants _____

Wording _____

_____ Pink and White Plant

Total plants _____

Wording _____

_____ Red and White Plant

Total plants _____

Wording _____

Total number of plants _____ X \$7.00=Amount Enclosed _____

Paying with Cash _____ or Check # _____

(Make payable to St. Paul's).

Place this form with payment in an envelope in the offering plate or in the church
office.



December 2019

December 2019							January 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14				5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 1 <div>9:00am FaithWorks</div> <div>10:15am Worship with Communion</div>	2	3 <div>6:30pm Women of the Church</div>	4	5	6	7
8 <div>9:00am FaithWorks</div> <div>10:15am Worship with Communion</div>	9	10 <div>7:30pm Worship and Music</div>	11	12	13	14 <div>8:00am Cub Scout Breakfast</div> <div>10:00am Men of the Church (Country Chef's Kitchen,</div>
15 <div>9:00am FaithWorks</div> <div>10:15am Worship with Communion</div>	16 <div>6:30pm Congregation Council</div>	17	18	19	20	21 <div>10:00am Hanging of the Greens / Lunch</div>
22 <div>9:00am FaithWorks</div> <div>10:15am Worship, Children's Pageant, and Communion</div>	23	24 <div>4:00pm Family Community Christmas Eve Service</div> <div>7:00pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service</div>	25 <div>MERRY CHRISTMAS</div>	26	27	28
29 <div>9:00am FaithWorks</div> <div>10:15am Worship with Communion</div>	30	31	Jan 1, 20	2	3	4

[Click Here to View Our Calendar and Events Page!](#)